



# Switzerland

## Advising Center Network

Educational advising is one of the core activities of the Public Affairs Assistant at the US Embassy in Bern, Switzerland. The adviser focuses on providing accurate, unbiased and comprehensive information about US study opportunities, including undergraduate and graduate programs, grant opportunities, admission procedures, student visa information, financial aid, standardized testing, and general information about the US higher education system. The educational adviser organizes and actively participates in outreach activities such as giving presentations at local universities and other higher education institutions and international schools. The EducationUSA resource library is hosted by the Berufsinformationszentrum BIZ (Career Development Center) in Bern.

## Recent Trends: US Study ▼ -2.7%

Swiss student enrollment in the United States has seen a small decline (2.7% decrease compared to 2006).

## Resource Links

US Embassy, EducationUSA: [http://bern.usembassy.gov/study\\_in\\_the\\_US.html](http://bern.usembassy.gov/study_in_the_US.html)  
 Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS): [www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch) — links to lists of accredited higher education institutions, terminology of degrees granted, and the university qualifications Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Swiss Universities: [www.oaq.ch](http://www.oaq.ch)

## Education System Overview

	Secondary Education	Higher Education (Bachelor's Degree)
Language of instruction:	French, German, Italian	French, German, Italian, English
Years of study required:	Lower secondary level: 4-5 years (Sekundarschule) Upper secondary level (top 15% of class): 3-4 years in addition to lower secondary level (Gymnasium, Kantonsschule, Lycée, Liceo)	3 years (with some exceptions)
Grading system & US equivalent:	Grading system 1-6: excellent (6) — A very good (5.5) — A good (5) — B+ fair (4.5) — B satisfactory (4) — C fail (below 4) — F Note: Grade 6 (excellent) on the upper secondary and tertiary level is very rare and only given to exceptional students with perfect results.	Grading system 1-6: excellent (6) — A very good (5.5) — A good (5) — B+ fair (4.5) — B satisfactory (4) — C fail (below 4) — F
Scholarship for US studies:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Fulbright — Swiss Scholarship Program (administered by CRUS and Public Affairs, US Embassy Bern)</li> <li>• Swiss National Science Foundation</li> <li>• Government grants</li> </ul>

## Upcoming Events in 2008-2009

In 2008, the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Bern will continue its Swiss university outreach and student advising efforts. For 2008, outreach will focus on the Italian and French speaking communities. US international education experts are welcome to contact the educational adviser in Switzerland to discuss their involvement in EducationUSA events.

## Country Contact

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## Program Highlights 2007

### April 2007

#### — Study in the US Materials Donated to Berufsinformationszentrum BIZ Bern

Bern — Deputy Chief of Mission Carol Urban met with Ms. Brigitte In-Albon, BIZ Director, and Mr. Andreas Schöne, Head of the Information Section, to present informational books on study in the US and to tour the facility. With the donation, the BIZ will house the most up-to-date US educational resources in Switzerland. The BIZ has become a prime resource for students and professionals in the larger Bern area, offering a centrally-located, well-organized, state-of-the-art library since its opening in 2006. Through this cooperation, the BIZ and the US Embassy aim to better serve the local population who are interested in university study and exchanges in the US.



### January 2007

#### — US Embassy Bern Student Adviser at University of Neuchâtel with 200 students

Neuchâtel — The Embassy student adviser, Marco Crugnola, outlined the general procedure for a stay abroad in the United States. In a joint presentation with the Department of National and International Relations of the University of Neuchâtel, he provided detailed information to 200 students on Fulbright scholarships and grants administered by the Embassy's Public Affairs Section and CRUS, the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities.

### Key EducationUSA Partners

- Universities, high schools and educational institutions/organizations
- Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Swiss Universities
- Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS)

Country Statistics	2006	2007
Number of students in the US:	1,276	1,241